

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-10 /080 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2718

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 3825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, IN, CH

SUBJ: NEPAL AS A "ZONE OF PEACE"

1. SUMMARY. THE GON HAS NOW ELABORATED THE "ZONE OF PEACE" IDEA ADVANCED BY KING BIRENDRA DURING HIS CORONATION IN FEBRUARY 1975 AND SEEKS ANY U.S. REACTIONS TO A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES DRAWN UP BY THE GON AND OUR "MORAL SUPPORT" IF A ZONE OF PEACE CAN BE WORKED OUT INVOLVING RELUPROCAL OBLIGATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND ITS TWO BIG NEIGHBORS. END SUMMARY

2. IN TWO CONVERSATIONS ON AUGUST DZT AND 26 FOREIGN SECRETARY KHATRI DISCUSSED WITH ME KING BIRENDRA'S "ZONE OF PEACE" PROPOSAL. KHATRI SAID TZAT NEPAL HAD INTENDED TO CARRY OUT CONSULTATIONS ON THIS PROPOSAL IN AN ORDERLY SEQUENCE, BEGINNING WITH ITS TWO BIG NEIGHBORS, THEN EMBRACING ITS OTHER MORE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, AND THEN TO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND,HXINALLY OTHER INTERESTED STATES. KHATRI SAID THAT SUCH A SEQUENTIAL CONCEPT OF CONSULTATIONS HAD PROVED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE. HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL, TRAVELING VIA CONFIDENTIAL

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INDIA, IRAN AND THE SOVIET UNION TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

IN LIMA, HAD ALREADY RECEIVED VARIOUS REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT AND EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER MORE AT LIMA.

3. KHATRI HANDED ME THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES PREPARED BY THE GON UNDER THE TITLE "THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL AS A ZONE OF PEACE":

QUOTE THE PROPOSAL TO DECLARE NEPAL AS A ZONE OF PEACE IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF RECIPROCITY AND MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATIONS. FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL NEPAL IS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING OBLIGATIONS PROVIDED OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES

WOULD ALSO ACCEPT RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS  
VIS-A-VIS NEPAL.

A) NEPAL WILL ADHERE TO THE POLICY OF PEACE, NON-ALIGNMENT AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND WILL CONSISTENTLY ENDEAVOR TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND PARTICULARLY WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

B) NEPAL WILL NOT RESORT TO THE USE OR THREAT OF FORCE IN ANY WAY WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

C) NEPAL WILL SEEK PEACEFULL SETTLEMENT  
BY ALLDIYUTES  
BETWEEN IT AND OTHER STATE OR STATES.

D) NEPAL WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES.

E) NEPAL WILL NOT PERMIT ANY ACTIVITY FROM ITS SOIL THAT IS HOSTILE TO ANY OTHER STATE.

F) NEPAL WILL CONTINUE TO HONOUR THE OBLIGATIONS OF ALL THE EXISTING TREATIES WHICH IT HAS CONCLUDED WITH OTHER  
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COUNTRIES SO LONG AS THEY REMAIN VALID.

G) IN CONFORMITY WITH ITS POLICY OF PEACE AND NON-ALIGNMENT, NEPAL WILL NOT ENTER INTO MILITARY ALLIANCE NOR WILL IT ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY FOREIGN MILITARY BASE ON ITS SOIL. END QUOTE

4. WHEN I NOTED THAT THE PAPER HE HAD GIVEN ME CONTAINED NO REFER-

ENCE TO THE MECHANICS, WHETHER BY OUR RESOLUTION OR OTHERWISE, FOR IMPLEMENTING THE KING'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL THAT NEPAL BE "DECLARED" A ZONE OF PEACE, KHATRI SMUD THAT THE GON INTENDED TO PROCEED VERY SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY ON ANY UN CONSIDERATION OF THE ZONE OF PEACE IDEA AND, IN FACT, DIDHYT INTEND TO RAISE THIS MATTER IN A UN CONTEXT NOW.

5. I TOLD KHATRI THAT ON MY INITIAL READING OF THE DOCUMENT, THESE PRINCIPLES SEEMED WELL SUITED TO NEPAL'S FOREIGN POLICY SITUATION, APPEARED TO BE A PROJECTBN FORWARD OF NEPALESE FOREIGN POLICY AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, AND SEEMED DESIGNED TO HELP ESTABLISH A PATTERN OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR NEPAL WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE.

6. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS, KHATRI CLARIFIED THAT THE BASIS CONCEPTS WERE: THAT NEPAL ITSELF WOULD BE A "ZONE OF PEACE"; THAT RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE IN THE ABOVE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDCJ AND NEPAL AND CHINA; THAT THE GON HOPED THIS FRAMEWORK WOULD RECEIVE THE "MORAL SUPPORT" OF OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, BUT THAT THESE COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE BOUND BY THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE ZONE OF PEACE ARRANGEMENT; AND THAT AT SOME STAGE, BUT NOT NOW, THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT BE ASKED TO ENDORSE THE ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL, IN WHICH CASE THEY WOULD HOPE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES.

7. THUS, KHATRI EMPHASIZED, THE RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS ENVISAGED IN THE NEPALESE PROPOSAL WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY BY INDIA AND CHINA, ILLUSTRATING, KHATRI SAID THAT THE RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN BY INDIA CORRESPONDING TO PWCA B OF THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES WOULD BE THAT INDIA WOULD NOT RESORT

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TO THE USE OR THREAT OF FORCE IN ANY WAY THAT MIGHT ENDANGER THE PEACE AN SECURITY OF NEPAL.

8. IN FURTHER CLARIFICATION, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT PARA C OF THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES DID NOT ENVISAGE COMPULSORY SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BUT ONLY AN UNDERTAKING TO SEEK PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT PARA E OF THE PRINCIPLES WAS INTENDED TO BAR BOTH HOSTILE PRESS AND RADIO STATEMENTS AS WELL AS HOSTILE PHYSICAL ACTS. HOWEVER, AS WITH THE OTHER PROJECTED UNDERTAKINGS, INDIA AND CHINA WOULD BE BOUND WITH RESPECT TO "HOSTILE" ACTIVITY DIRECTED AT NEPAL BUT THAT THIS WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE AN UNDERTAKING BY INDIA VIS-A-VIS CHINA OR VICE VERSA.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I N L SECTION 2 OF 2 KATHMANDU 3825

9. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION, KHATRI SAID THAT THE GON YFD NOT YET REACHED A CONCLUSION AS TO THE FORM WHICH SUCH RECIPROCAL UNDERTAKINGS BEHWEEN NEIVL#AN ZINDIA AND NEPAL AND CHINA MIGHT TAKE.

10. FOREIGN SECRETARY K UTRI SAID THE GON WANTED TO LET THE UNITED STATES KNOW THE STAGE NEPAL HAD REACHED IN ITS THINKING ON THE ZONE OF PEACE AND TO SEEK ANY REACTIONS WE MIGHT HAVE TO THE APPROACH THEY YLD ELABORATED ANDNURRHE ABOVE STATEMEC OF PRINCIPLES. HE AGAIN NOTEDSIHAT THE GON DID CONTEMPLATE U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS BUT HOPED THEY WOULD HAVE OUR "MORAL SUPPORT" IF THEY COULD BE WORKOUT WITH RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND ITS TWO BIG NEIGHBORS. I TOLD KHATRI I WOULD BE GLAD TO SEEK WASHINGTON REACTIONS.

11. COMMENT. THE NEPALESE HAVE WW ADVANCED A STAGE TOWARD SUBSTANTIVE ELABDRATION OF KING BIRENDRA'S ZONE OFHIEACE IDEA. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE ABOVE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES MAYHAVE BEEN ALREADY APROACHED TO INDIA AND CHINA OR TO OTHERS, ALTHOUGH THE INDIAN DCM HERE SAYS INDIA STILL DOES NOT KNOW WHAT NEPAL HAS IN MIND. IN ANY EVENT, WE SUSPECT THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WITH NEPAL'S TWO BIG NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY

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WITH INDIA, AVLL BE A LONG AND TORTUOUS PROCESS, WITH HCH  
INDIAN SKEPTICISM TO BE OVKDCOME, IF INDEED IT CAN BE. IN  
DQTHESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE ADVOCATE A CONTINUATION OF A VERY LOW  
KEY POSTURE ON OUR PART. IN PARTICULAR, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE  
THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD AVOID A  
PUBLIC STATEMENT OF  
OUR VIEWS LEAST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NEPAL'S PRINCIPAL NEIGHBORS  
HAVE  
THEMSELVES INDICATED THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD  
THE MORE COMPLETE CONCEPT OF A ZONE OF PEACE WHICH THE NEPALESE  
ARE NOW PRESENTING.

12. THE NEPALESE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS WE MIGHT HAVE ON  
THE CONTENT OF THE ZONE OF PEACE PRINCIPLES THEY HAVE DRAWN UP.  
SO FAR AS WE CAN SEE, THESE PRINCIPLES ARE CONSISTENT WITH  
NEPALESE LONG-TERM INTERESTS AND ESTABLISHED POLICY AND AS A  
STATMENT OF NEP-L'S POLICY, DO NOT CONFLICT WITH U.S. INTERESTS.  
EVEN  
THOUGH THE NEPALESE DO NOT SEEK TO ENGAGE US IN THE ACCEPT-  
ANCE OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS, IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE USEFUL TO  
LET THEM HAVE OUR COMMENTS ON POINTS WHERE WE SEE DIFFICULTIES.

13. IN TERMS OF THE NEPALESE WISH FOR OUR "MORAL SUPPORT,"  
WE THINK SOME CAUTION IS INDICATED UNTIL THE POSITION OF NEPAL'S  
NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY INDIA, IS MOREIOULLY UNDERSTOOD. ACCORD-  
INGLY, WE SUGGEST FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION THAT WE MIGHT AT  
THC STAGE TELL THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT WE HAVE FULL  
SYMPATHY FOR NEPAL'S DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH ITS TASK OF  
DEVELOPMENT IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE AND THAT WE THEREFORE  
UNDERSTAND THEIR INTEREST IN PURSUING THE IDEA OF NEPAL AS  
A ZONE OF PEACE; THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN THE CONCEPT AS  
SUCH OF NEPAL AS A ZONE GI PEACE WHICH CAUSES US CONCERN AND  
THAT WHETHER WE COULD GIVE THE PROJECT OUR " MORAL SUPPORT" WILL  
DEPEND ON THE ULTIMATE CONTENT OF THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE WORKED  
OUT BY NEPAL WITH ITS TWO BIG NEIGHBORS. END COMMENT. CARGO

NOTE : # AS RECEIVED.

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